The Generall Cauſe of the

CLOTHIERS OF ENGLAND EPITOMIZED:

OR,

A Briefe Narration of the Tranſactions of the Gent. Continuing Vndertakers for the Proſecution and finiſhing the Clothiers juſt Deſires, ſince the firſt Preſentation of the Grand Petition now depending in the Honourable Houſe of *Commons*, untill this preſent.

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For the ſatisfaction of the Clothiers in generall.

Printed in the yeare 1648.

THE Generall Cauſe of the Clothiers in ENGLAND Epitomized.

GENTLEMEN,

AS God is the Author of all Good, ſo men through Reaſon may receive ſatisfaction in good Actions: That ſo you may be ſatisfied, you may pleaſe to take notice, That ſince *November*, 1645. your Cauſe hath been proſecuted by ſome of your ſelves and Us: And as the beſt Cauſes have alwayes the greateſt and worſt Adverſaries, ſo this great and gallant Cauſe of yours was no ſooner intended, but the Contradictions and riſing of many Spirits appeared againſt it; ſome through Ignorance, and others ſiniſter ends; ſome doubting it would be hurtfull to Wooll-growers, and ſo no publique good: Then the Staplers and Ingroſſers, to their utmoſt, under ſpecious Pretences beguiled many, that when the Petition was preſented, it was very like to be caſt out of the Houſe.

But the Parliament ſeeing it was of ſo generall concernment, being willing to doe the Kingdome right in this ſo great a Buſineſſe, Committed it: But the Kingdome being at that time infeſted with

Warres and Diſtractions almoſt in every place, the matters thereof tooke up ſo much time, that the Committee could not attend that ſervice; which cauſed much Trouble, Diligence, and Coſt; many lying here from all parts, and wee waiting ſtill in expectation, obſerving the unwearied labours and expence of the Staplers: who ſeeing they could not hinder, but that the Committee would ſit, to examine the particular Abuſes mentioned in the Petition, they ſought all wayes poſſible to poſſeſſe thoſe worthie Gentlemen with prejudice againſt you; as firſt, concerning Traſh and Deceits in branding, winding filth amongſt it Water, and the like there mentioned; That your onely Ayme was againſt the Gentlemen, ours and the Kingdomes Judges; That you would Sue, Trouble, and Moleſt them afterwards; which wee preſume never entred into the hearts of any of you, for Deceits properly belongs to them: But under ſuch and the like, if a Committee was got, it was adjourned, though Councell was conſtantly readie; which occaſioned expence of much Money, beſides delay of long Time.

When wee had waded through this difficultie, then the Staplers brought uſually five or ſix Councell, that ſtill when ours ſhould have gone on, they gained the Libertie of Speaking, and ſo put us off from Aſſiſes to Aſſiſes; for being the Chaire-man and many worthie friends went the Circuit, there could be nothing done.

Thirdly, they gained ſome Petitions, as if from the Growers, either by Forging, Suborning, or otherwiſe; That they were neceſſarie for the State, and ſo

good

good Common-wealths men: And for that end did endevour, from the Grand Inqueſt of the ſeverall Counties, to Certifie ſo much for them; ſome few of which they did obtaine, others judiciouſly would not, and others wee hindered them in: in this there was much Time ſpent, contrarie to your good and our wills, not any neglect in us.

Thus ſo being put to it, many friends falls off, being wearied out with wayting, and ſeeing no good Iſſue, but Adjournments, Demurres, Prejudice; ſo having but few hearts left, but thoſe good, wee reſolved to continue to the end: and becauſe divers, yea, many dayes, our Councell had five, eight, or ten pounds a day, and no product; wee finding at that time the Councell of the Armie and Generall to be prevalent, went ſome to the Generall; who being extreamely ſenſible of the generall Complaints, and decay of the Clothing, did write effectually. Comming back, wee did finde by that meanes many exceeding helpefull Inſtruments; who taking notice, that wee did conſtantly attend, with Printed Arguments, to ſhew the Deceits of the Staplers, and did confute their then Allegations, ſhewed abundant love; the Votes were concluded, *nemine contradicente*: The Gentlemen taking notice, and fully ſatisfying themſelves, to be readie for the Debate, when the Report is brought into the Houſe; which had been before now, had not the preſent Difference about the *Scots* Declaration hindered: For M. *Thorpe* was prepared, who was Chaire-man; whoſe worth is ſo great, and his will quickning his worth, that he ſeemes to be altogether diſpoſed to diſpatch this

Buſineſſe.

Buſineſſe. And when he went the Northerne Circuit, he did cheareſully ingage, That his abſence ſhould be no hinderance, but through his and his friends Endeavours, to accompliſh your Deſires before next Shearing; ſo then no time loſt: For which, the Clothiers of *England* are extreame ungratefull, if they doe not take ſpeciall notice, by way of thankfulneſſe, to that man.

Now Gentlemen, having briefely hinted to ſeverall Paſſages paſſed, wee ſhall as briefely premiſe what is neceſſarie for the preſent: This muſt be diſtinguiſhed or divided betweene you and us; you muſt doe your part, and ſpeedily, or elſe all is loſt; your Poſterities ſhall periſh through your neglects: The reſt of the Kingdome have done theirs, let it not lye onely upon you; it is but your ſubſcriptions to the Petition and Letters preſented, which is thought neceſſarie, yet comparatively invalid to thoſe Mountaines of Difficulties wee are to paſſe:

For firſt, wee are by conſtant Attendance, to keepe things alive in the Parliaments Memorie, and to ſee that none be taken off by the contrarie parties, that flock dayly to *Weſtminſter*, to hinder this Worke, and to worke their owne Ends.

Next, wee ſhall endeavour, and doubt not to finiſh the Worke, according to your owne wills; and that you be fully relieved againſt all Grievances what-ever; That the Law be ſo made, as to glad your hearts, and continue for ever good, to future Ages.

Thirdly,

Thirdly, wee ſhall have a ſpeciall eye, that this Law be lawfull, to wit, not claſhing with the knowne Lawes of the Land; and that the Commiſſion be according to the Fundamentall Conſtitution of this Kingdome.

Fourthly, it ſhall be our greateſt Care, to gaine this Law or Commiſſion ſo made, that it ſhall ſpeedily eaſe you of all Wrongs, ſatisfie all Damages, without Suites of further trouble to you, or the leaſt loſſe of Time to you, or yours, without your expence to Suit; but every thing clearely for the true good of all, according to that truth of hearts as becomes us, that have freely ingaged for you; as publique Spirits, ſeeing the Cauſe great; as true lovers of the publique good. And truly Gentlemen, many have runne well, and done ſomewhat, but have tyred in the Race; and wee conceive, that love is no love in truth that tyres, but a Pretence for ſome ſecret Ends; and alſo perceiving, that without diligent and vigorous continuance, the Worke will periſh in the Birth: Therefore wee are reſolved, though ſome be falne off, and others oppoſe, to wade through all Oppoſition, and to Record mens Actions, That who even failes on their part, ſhall be Regiſtred, that Generations to ſome in the next Ages ſhall ſay, Our Fathers were guiltie of *Englands* Ruine, in the Clothing: which becomes not any, much leſſe the Clothiers, or any part of them, who will be infamous for ever, and branded with deſtruction of all *Englands* Trade.

This rather our Zeale, ſeeing a ſpeedie neceſſitie of your Subſcriptions to the Particulars, brought down

by

by the bearers hereof, then any ſcruple of your neglect, which wee have not the leaſt doubt of; but onely to haſte on, for Time is now; let not Time be loſt: And ſeeing the afore-named have finiſhed their part, be not dull or ſlack for your owne good; wee ſeeing and finding by our Labours the love of Friends, and the uſe of juſt meanes; it is very neere the Birth, the Lord God give a bleſſed End to it.

This is the preſent ſtate of your Buſineſſe, collected for your ſatisfactions, at the requeſt of the Gentlemen, lovers and fellow-helpers in the perfecting your Deſires, by him who is a true lover of his Countreyes good, and ever bred up in the Clothing.

Dated the 20 *of March,*
1647.

WILLIAM TALBOTT.

FINIS.